

# SEEDS OF GOLD. what's happening

## NEWS AROUND THE COUNTRY

### FROM THE EDITOR



I do not want my neighbour to read this. But again I want him, and those like him, to take note of the message. It is in relation with the main story in this issue.

The one on urban agriculture, something we, urban dwellers, can learn from. Use of space around us to grow food either for home consumption, supplement our diet or to earn income.

Now, my neighbour has a piece of land that has remained idle for the eight years I have lived there. I hope he starts to make use of it soon.

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## Pig farmers advised on quality feeds

Pig farmers should focus on providing high quality feeds to their pigs if they realise the returns on investment in the business. Although there are hindrances like African swine fever, such can be checked if the animals are confined and fed.

This was the advice for farmers, consumers and dealers from Dr Nicholas Kawuta, Director, Animal Resources at Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, while speaking at a national multi-stake holder platform held in Kampala.

### Major concern

"There is no way you can ensure that pigs don't get diseases if you allow them to move in search of food. The only solution is to get them quality feeds and confine them," he said adding that: "The problem is we still get feed for our pigs from the bush because no one is growing feeds for them."

He cautioned farmers against pressuring government into passing the law on pig feeds but to advocate for the production of high quality commercial pig feeds.

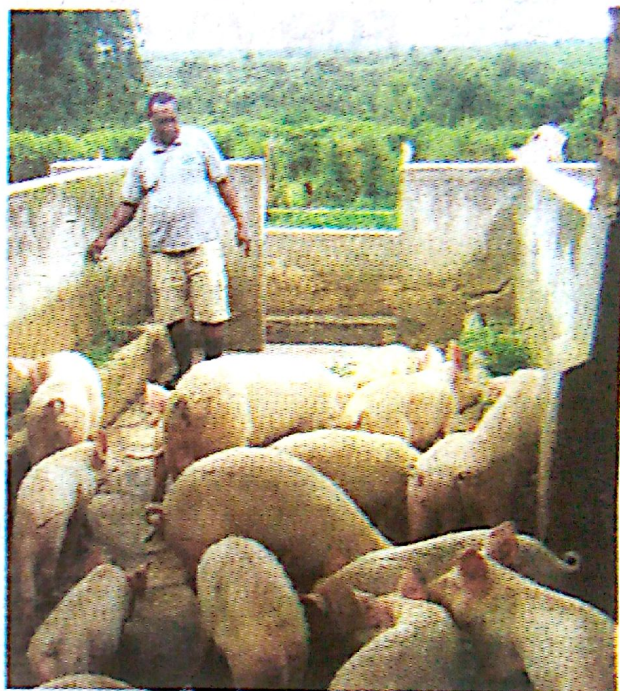
"You should think about venturing into the processing of quality pig feeds so that the law does not hinder the progress already made in the industry," Dr Kawuta said.

In his remarks, Joseph Semujju, the platform facilitator, said there is need for a private-public partnership to counter the challenge of feeds, which is a major concern.

"There are various problems including disease but feeding is a major concern as it contributes more than 75 per cent to the growth of a pig. We need to partner with various institutions, both private and public to amplify pig-feeding technology," he elaborated.

### Be creative

A number of farmers, while contributing to the discussion at forum, added that the major challenge was people sharing food with the animals.



With good quality feeds, farmers will be able to get the best from their pigs. FILE PHOTO

"We share almost all foods with our pigs and this sometimes means the pigs are given leftovers," Eva Balimukatonda, one of the farmers, said. "It is important that government invests in research so that we can discover food for pigs that isn't eaten by man. When the food is scarce, it is the pigs that suffer because we have to deny them food so that we can eat."

However, Dr Emma Naluyima, the forum's chairperson, pointed out that should get creative if they are to produce enough food for the animals.

"Income from pigs is not selling their piglets or from pork alone, you can collect their dung and make biogas to help you save energy or take it to the garden for more productivity. This alone shows you that pigs can feed themselves from their byproducts and still bring you income," she said.

-Albert Tumwine